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Ageing, health and urban wellbeing

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Ageing, health and urban wellbeing

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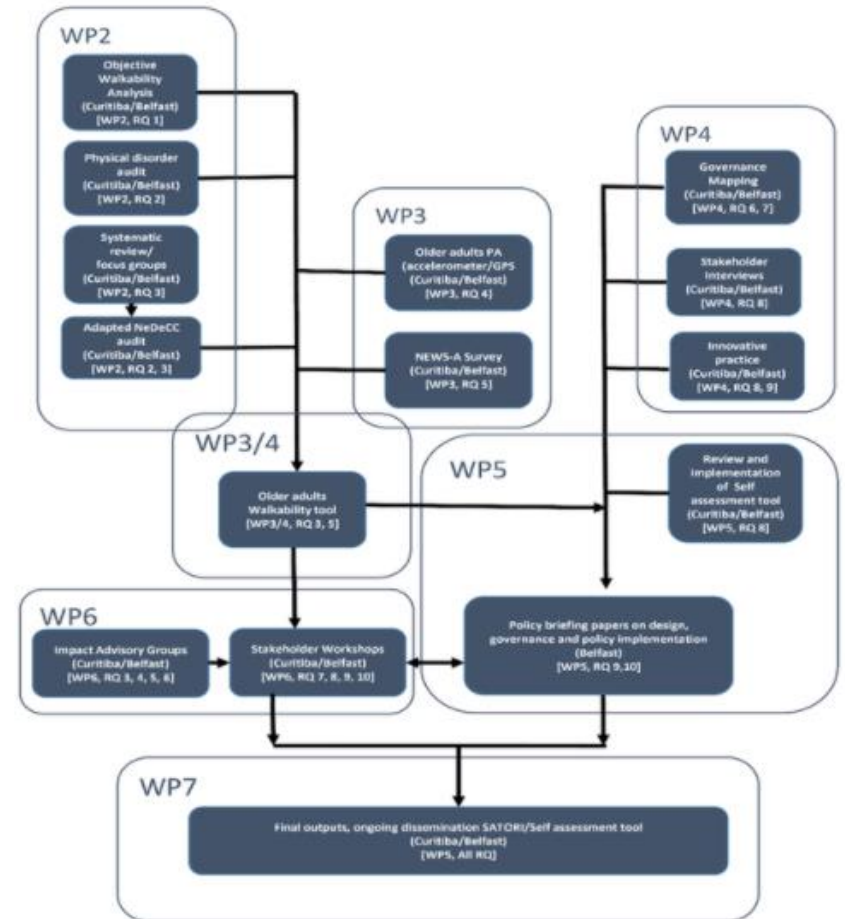
Planning Research Conference
September 2017

Healthy Urban Living & Ageing in place: Physical Activity, Built Environment
& Knowledge Exchange in Brazilian Cities (HULAP)



1. HULAP UK (Belfast) and Brazil (Curitiba)
2. Actor Networks and assemblages
3. Policy discourses, disconnections and clusters
4. Comparative responses
5. Implications for research and practice

HULAP STUDY

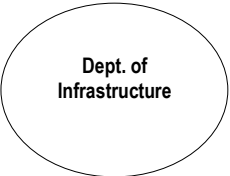
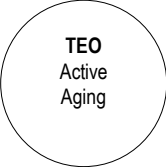


Literature and networks

- Ageing in place, **de-institutionalised health and** care in the community (Liddle et al., 2014)
- **Age Friendly Cities (AFC)** (WHO, 2007; Emlet and Mocerri, 2012)
- **Lifetime neighbourhoods**, adaptation and retrofitting place (Nefs et al., 2013)
- Age neighbourhoods and **the suburbs** (Nijman and Clery, 2015)
- Physical activity, **walkability** and ageing (Todd, et al., 2016)
- Isolation, **loneliness** and perishing familial and social networks (Hagan 2014; JRF, 2012)
- Older people as active **producers of their own place**, services and social interaction (Stewart et al., 2014)
- Older people are **reified** and displaced by more profitable demographics (Peck et al., 2013; Liddle et al, 2014)

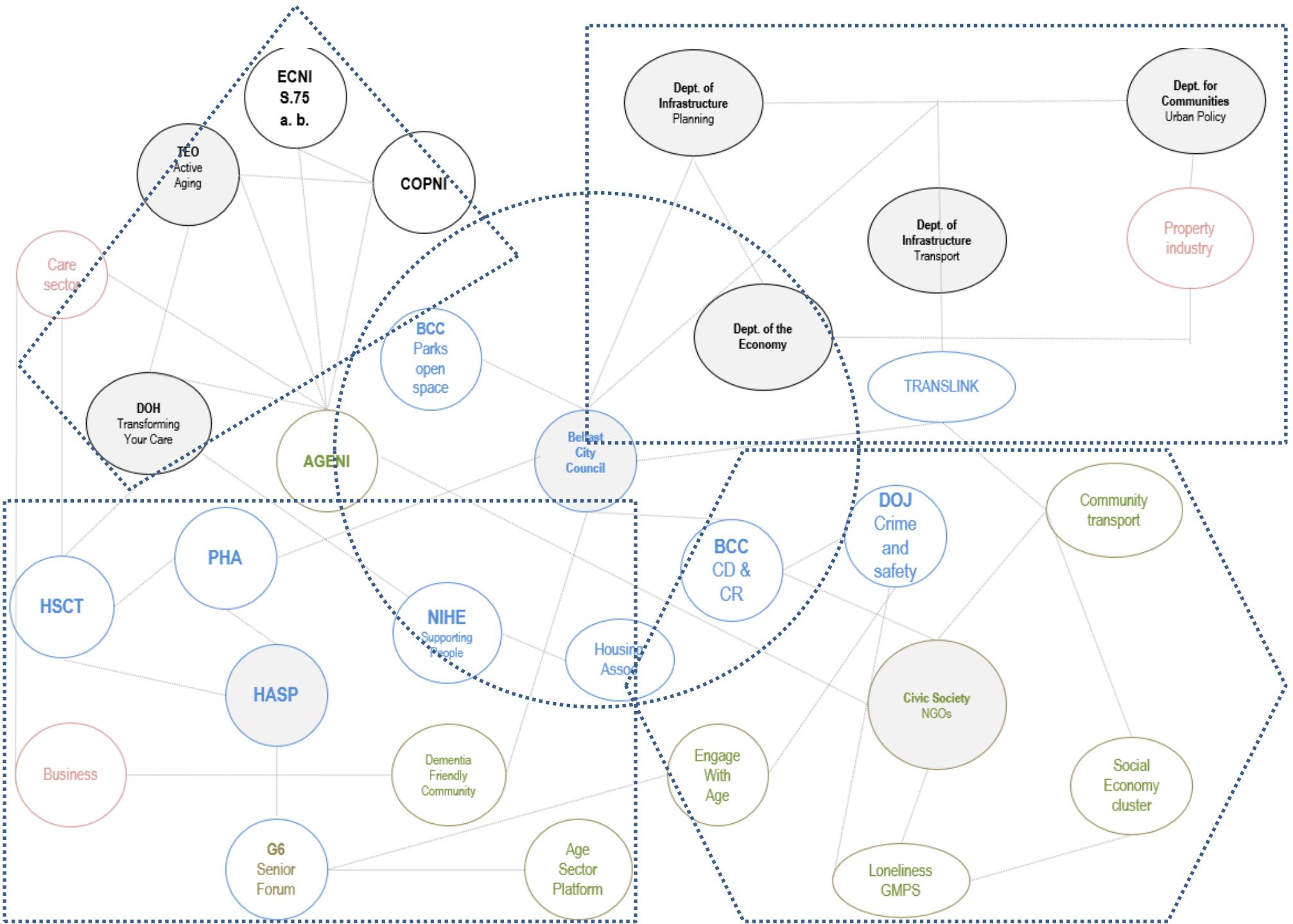
Latour (2005) that assemblages can be understood via 5 dimensions:

1. the **nature of groups**
 - Actor identification and legitimacy
2. the **nature of action**
 - The modalities of actor working and network mapping
3. the **nature of objects**
 - Governance arenas, speech and symbolic representation of issues
4. the **nature of facts;**
 - How evidence is created, translated and used
5. the **type of studies**
 - The discursive nature of policy and how, and who, produces it and ultimately receives it









TEO
Active
Aging

Networks inside networks

Strategic ageing linked to core health & social care, including active role of the **private sector** as care and institutional provider

DOH
Transforming
Your Care

Local authority and
intermediate agencies;
focused on 'growth'
competitiveness and
infrastructure

Belfast
City
Council

Dept. of
Infrastructure

Strategic *territorial* policy planning, urban policy and urban regeneration. Strongly connected to the property economy favouring densification, **youth lifestyles** and creative economies.

Older people seen largely as a **housing** challenge.

HASP

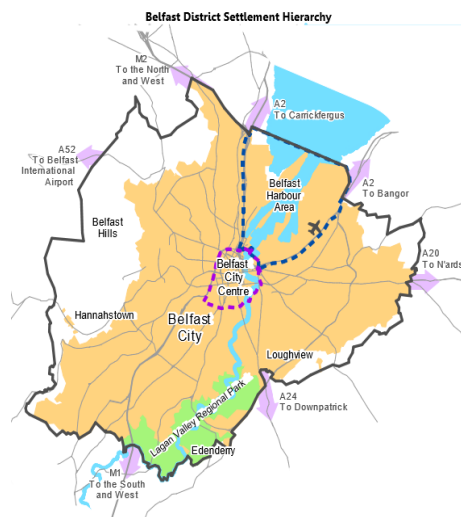
Local ageing with strong participatory dimension and **governance** mechanisms. Weak connection with land use policies, agencies and most of all resources.

Civic Society
NGOs

Diverse, innovative and responds to multiple needs but inward focused civic action. Some evidence of **Shadow State** roles and responsibilities.



Local Development Plan 2020-2035



Shaping a liveable place

Promoting development that enhances the health and well-being of communities, neighbourhoods and places.

Creating a vibrant economy

A strengthened Belfast as the regional economic driver.



A green and active place

A protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting, reinforcing uniqueness and accessibility to all who live work and enjoy the city.

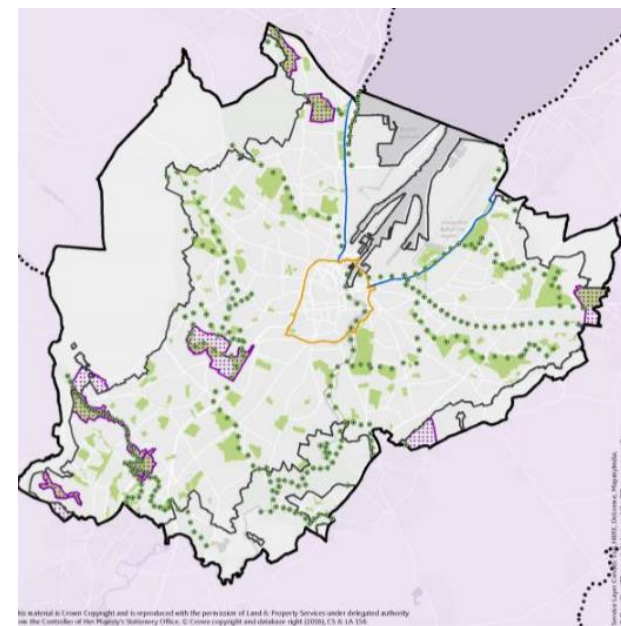
A smart connected and resilient place

Improving connectivity and supporting the efficient movement of people, goods, energy and information to create a dynamic innovative 21st century city with the capacity for adaption to environmental challenges.

LP4 – Specialist accommodation for older people preferred option

The Local Development Plan will contain specific policies to address the most acute needs of the community as identified in an up-to-date strategic housing market. This will include:

- **Homes for older people** – Setting locational criteria to ensure specialist housing for older people, including retirement villages and care-related facilities, will provide ease of access to relevant services and facilities such as shops, public transport routes and health facilities. Proposals will need to be accompanied by evidence that the homes or bed spaces meet identified community needs.
- **Lifetime Homes** – Requiring an appropriate proportion of new homes on strategic housing sites to be built to Lifetime Home standards so that they are adaptable enough to match changing needs of people throughout their lifetime.



Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation



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Belfast Agenda



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Belfast Agenda – Belfast's first community plan

The Belfast opportunity

Introduction from Belfast's Community Planning partners

Imagine yourself in 2035 - what do you want to achieve? What are your hopes for you and your family? What kind of Belfast do you want to live in? Now think - what might help achieve this and what might get in the way?

Over the last two years we've been asking people what they want in a future city. More than 2,000 people told us what they thought. They said they wanted a city where everyone has a good start in life, a good education and a good job - where everyone has safe, good quality places to live, work and play, where people get on with each other.

They talked about Belfast as a place where we take care of each other, that celebrated youth and age and diversity, and made sure no-one was left behind.

Belfast should have a vibrant cultural life and be a place that inspires innovation. A well connected place in which you can move around easily. People wanted Belfast to be outward-looking and confident on the world stage, competitive and forward-looking. They talked about the beauty of the city, its natural and built environment and the need to take care of the place now and for future generations.

Our conversations across the city confirmed that Belfast is already a place of energy, optimism and ambition.

Our city has a young and increasingly diverse population and is attracting people from across the world who are bringing new skills and vibrancy to our communities.

People want to come here to experience our city - tourism is growing year on year. Our success in economic growth areas such as tourism is making a vital contribution to the wider Northern Ireland economy. We are a major employer of people living in and outside the city. Our higher and further education institutions and industries are important contributors to research and development, skills and trade. We have real talent and creativity and are not shy of hard work. Such energy is a magnet for global companies who are attracted by, amongst other things, our talent and next generation digital connectivity.

We have a unique history of pioneering voluntary and community action with strongly embedded social capital across many of our communities.

The city has been transformed through physical and cultural regeneration. In recent years over £2 billion has been invested in cultural facilities, retail, leisure and housing. Our revitalised city centre, with its top class bars, restaurants and hotels, is evidence of the many positive changes that have already taken place.

But there are also things that are getting in the way of connecting people to this success - health, educational and economic inequalities are too wide and, while certain people and parts of the city have benefited from economic growth, many others remain disconnected from wider success, unable to reach their potential because they don't have the skills or have not had the right life opportunities.

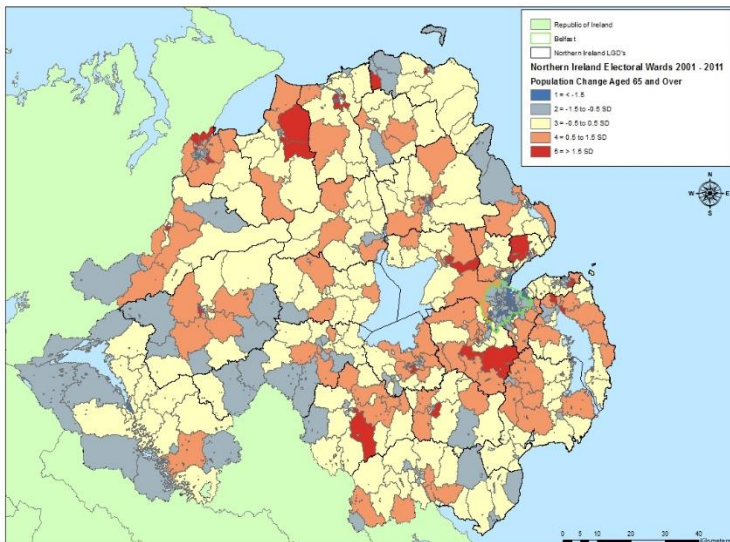
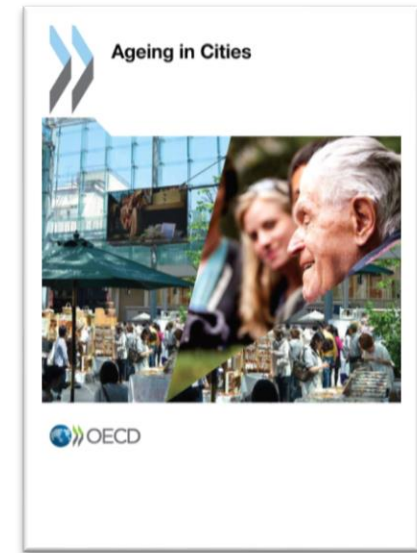
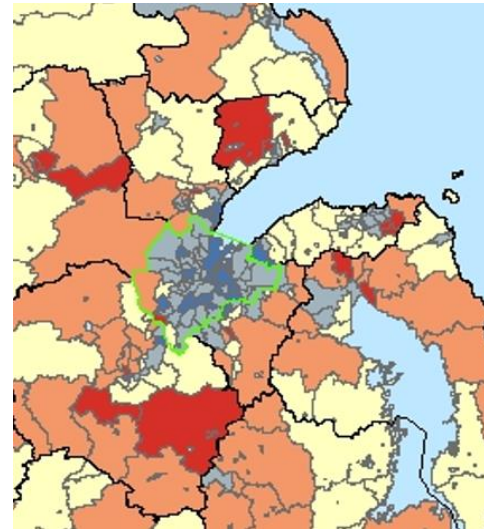
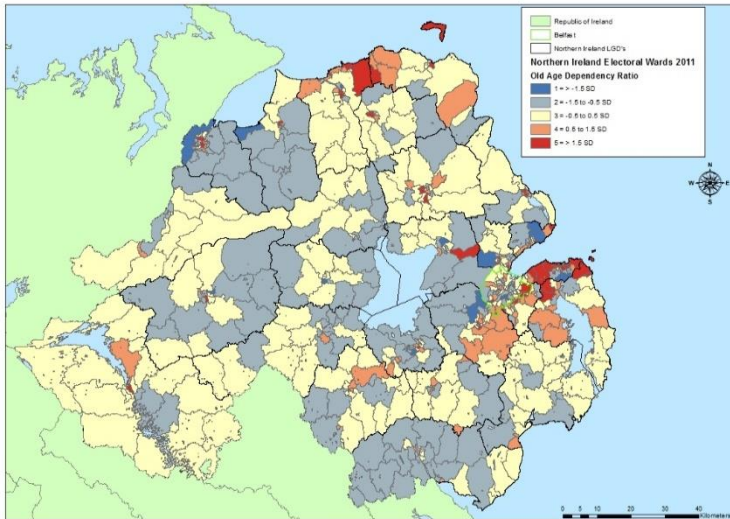
Division and segregation continue to put a brake on the potential of many people and communities. We have a highly qualified and highly skilled population but we also need to address educational inequalities that leave too many people without formal qualifications. Unemployment within the city ranges from 1 per cent to 16 per cent across wards with people facing multiple barriers to opportunity.

And we need to ensure that our urban infrastructure is renewed so that it meets the demands of a 21st century economy, including the need for effective, sustainable transport solutions.

The Belfast Agenda is about re-imagining our city, building upon our strong foundations - it is about creating opportunity and removing the barriers that prevent people from fulfilling their potential.

The city is resurgent and re-energised. Now is our time - and every one of us needs to ensure that we can connect as many people as possible to Belfast's opportunities.

- Moos (2015, p.2) sees as the 'contemporary lifestyles, demography and socio-economic conditions of the young playing out in the (urban) landscape'.
- A variant of gentrification but also connected with densification and planning frameworks that emphasise compactness, competitiveness and the 'creative class'.
- Respond to the interface between the housing and labour markets lifestyle amenities and cultural assets.
 - *'The downtowns have become increasingly attractive to young adults (on the) contrary, older adults have been increasing in concentration in suburban neighbourhoods (p.9).*



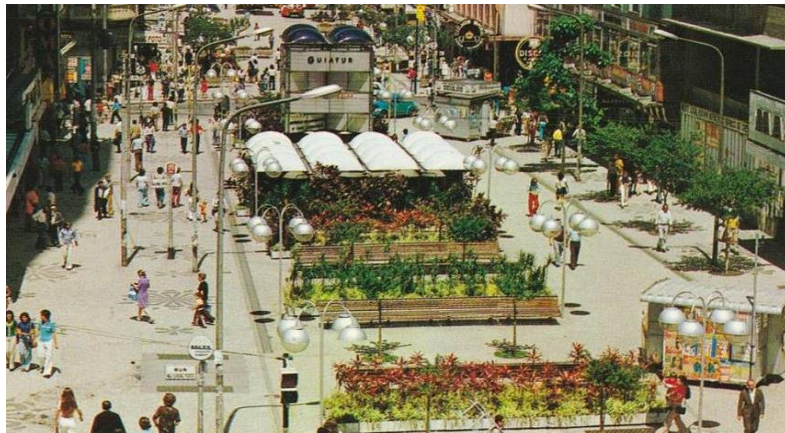
BBC News article titled "7,000 rooms planned for university students in Belfast". The article is dated 26 October 2015 and is written by John Campbell, BBC News NI Economics & Business Editor. The article mentions that planning permission has been sought for student accommodation at Ulster University's Belfast campus near the Cathedral Quarter.

The article includes a map of the Belfast city center showing the location of the proposed student accommodation, labeled "UNIVERSITY FLATS" and "NUB CAMPUS".

BBC News article titled "Belfast city centre student housing schemes sold for £40m". The article is dated 2 December 2016 and is written by Northern Ireland. The article mentions that two student housing schemes being developed in Belfast city centre have been sold to investment companies in deals worth over £40m.

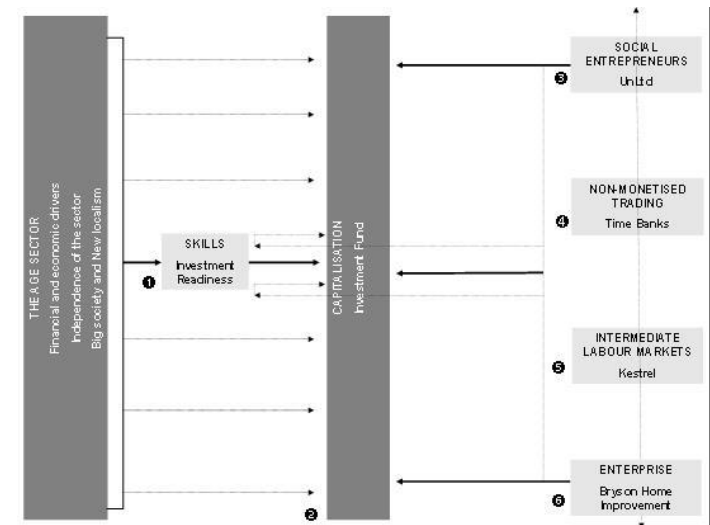
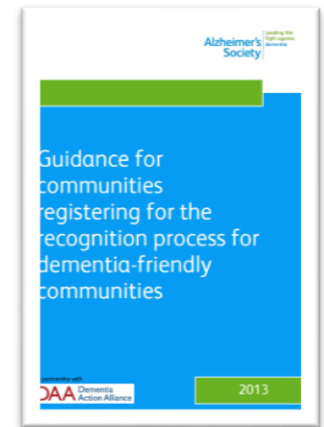
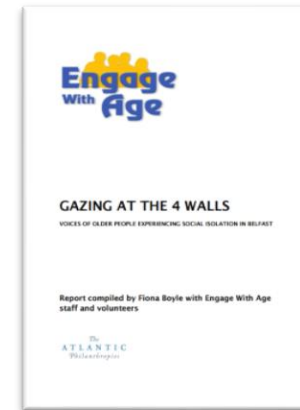
The article includes a photograph of a street scene in Belfast city center, showing a building that was formerly the Atlantic Stores shop.

Curitiba - municipal forms of service and care



Innovative practices

- Local responses to loneliness; getting older people socially and spatially connected
- Dementia friendly communities service delivery
- Governance and mobilisation of older people as an active political lobby
- Social economy cluster; creating alternative mobility circuits, but also responsabilisation and state downloading



Implications and next steps

- Universal policies (AFC) have their limitations
 - Important for integrating actors and resources but also downloading to the local and the third sector
- Spatial scale and neighbourhood focus
 - Focus on whole of city approaches or targeted neighbourhoods, especially the suburbs
- Connectivity and urban assets
 - Urban policies and programme leverage
- Everyday spaces of encounter and the meaning of place to older people
 - Socio-psychological responses to the street, pavement and public arenas

